



ALPENGLOW



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Welcome to Denali National Park and Preserve

Maybe I'm biased, but to me Denali National Park and Preserve is one of the most special places on Earth.

Congress recognized the area's significance 95 years ago when they established what was then called Mount McKinley National Park to protect wildlife. The park's importance to the world was further recognized when it was designated an International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations in 1976. Over the years, Congress has expanded the park boundaries and added preserve lands. Today, Denali National Park and Preserve contains over 9,000 square miles of largely undisturbed land. The park purposes were also broadened, so today we protect a wide range of plants, animals, and landscapes; wilderness values; and opportunities for wildlife viewing, subsistence, mountain climbing, and wilderness recreation.

To experience this world-renowned park can be wondrous for Alaska visitors and residents alike. The Denali Park Road helps us get closer to the wildness. This winding gravel road, constructed between 1922 and 1938 and still mostly unpaved, travels over mountain passes and across broad, braided river drainages along its 92-mile length. It offers unparalleled views of an ever-changing landscape, wildlife, and, on a clear day, Denali (Mount McKinley). Our 400,000 annual park visitors

will have an unforgettable experience as they travel the Park Road on one of the numerous park buses.

Preserving the quality of this experience is one of the park's highest priorities. We spent the past several summers gathering data on how vehicle use impacts wildlife and other park resources, and how it affects you, the park visitor. This summer we will finalize the Vehicle Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement that will guide the National Park Service in managing bus and other vehicle traffic on the Park Road for the next 20 years.

Our goal is that you and those who visit Denali in the coming decades will continue to have the experience of a lifetime because of the efforts of all who work here, or work in support of the park.

Welcome. I hope you enjoy your visit!

Paul R. Anderson
Superintendent



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ALPENGLOW
Produced and Designed by



Park Coordinator
Tim Rains

Contributors

Paul Anderson, Jane Bryant, Karen Deatherage, Jacob W. Frank, Jasmine Horn, Kristin Knight, Carolyn Kremers, Jim Lebel, Alex Lindeman, Ingrid Nixon, Jennifer Raffaelli, Sierra McLane, David Tomeo, Sean Proctor

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Heidi Barker

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Making the Most of Your Visit

If you have half a day...

ATTEND a sled dog demonstration or an education program at the Murie Science and Learning Center. Take a shuttle bus into the park.

HIKE one of the entrance area trails near the Denali Visitor Center (see page 14). Each of these trails provides opportunities for exploring the taiga (boreal forest) and observing wildlife. Go on your own or join a ranger-guided walk (see page 12).

WATCH the feature film at the Denali Visitor Center or the Wilderness Access Center.

RIDE the free Savage River shuttle bus to Mile 15 or take a Denali Natural History Tour (see page 6). Keep a lookout for moose, caribou, and wolves. On a clear day, Mount McKinley may be seen in the distance near Mile 9.

If you have a full day...

TAKE a bus to Eielson Visitor Center or beyond. As you travel the road west, you may observe wildlife or discover a place to get off the bus and take a hike.

JOIN a ranger for a Discovery Hike or guided walk (see page 12). You must sign up in advance at the Denali Visitor Center for Discovery Hikes. Group size is limited.

SIGN UP for an education program at the Murie Science and Learning Center (see page 11).

TAKE a guided Tundra Wilderness Tour of the park to Toklat River (see page 6).



If you have a few days...

TAKE another trip into the park. Visit Wonder Lake and hike the McKinley Bar Trail, or join a Discovery Hike.

TAKE a walk departing from the Denali Visitor Center.

SIGN UP for an education program at the Murie Science and Learning Center.

PLAN your own hike. Topographical maps, guidebooks, and knowledgeable staff can assist you in planning a trip. All are available at the Backcountry Information Center.

CHECK outside the park for activities including rafting and flightseeing. A list of area businesses is available at the Wilderness Access Center and the Denali Visitor Center.

VISIT Denali's Talkeetna Ranger Station, located 150 miles south of the park entrance in the town of Talkeetna. This is a spectacular road trip that goes through Denali State Park and provides great views of Mount McKinley and the Alaska Range.

A Wild ROAD

The Park Road is rugged, like the wilderness that bears it. It reveals to the traveler the heart of the land slowly and unexpectedly, even intimately, in its winding approach. A trip along the road offers an immersive opportunity to get a sense of this special wild place. For the adventurous spirit, it is a portal, granting easy access to the legally designated Wilderness that lies just beyond the road's borders. Over time the road became a testament to the wilderness preservation spirit that resides here. It embodies the benefits of restraint and careful decision making. Inherent in its existence is the challenge of balancing access to this wilderness landscape with its preservation.

Crews widen the Park Road at Polychrome, 1939

Postcard of Polychrome Pass

Visitors exploring the Denali wilderness

Several key events during the course of the road history have played pivotal roles in the continuing preservation of the Denali Wilderness and contributed to the experience of today.

1921

The park's first superintendent, Harry Karstens, states in his first monthly report, "a main artery road through the upper passes is the park's most urgent need."

The Alaska Road Commission dedicates funds for road building to be spent on routes that were the "shortest possible distance from the center of the mining district to the Government Railroad." This is in slight conflict to the scenic route proposed by Harry Karstens. Ultimately, the road today reflects a compromise of the decision ending at the Kantishna Mining District, instead of near the base of Mount McKinley.

1922-1938

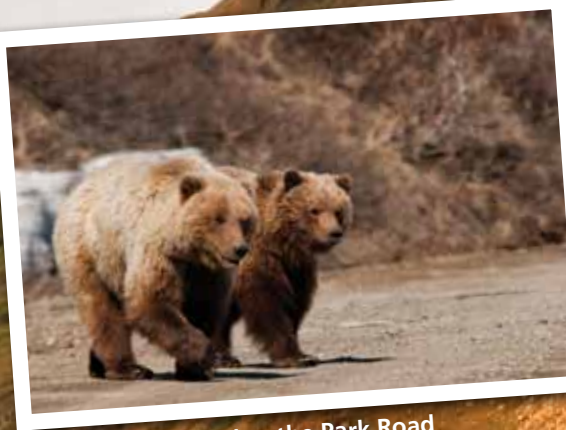
Construction of the Park Road takes place as a joint project between the Alaska Road Commission and the National Park Service.

1958-1965

Mission 66 calls to upgrade infrastructure in national parks by 1966, including plans for major changes to bring the road up to modern standards, including realignment, widening, and paving. Vibrant opposition by conservation groups including Olaus J. Murie, director of the Wilderness Society, put a halt to plans and the widening of the road is stopped at Mile 30 (Teklanika).

"The national park will not serve its purpose if we encourage the visitor to hurry as fast as possible for a mere glimpse of scenery from a car, and a few snapshots. Rather there is an obligation inherent in a national park, to help the visitor get some understanding, the aesthetic meaning of what is in the place."

Olaus J. Murie, 1959



Grizzly bears crossing the Park Road

1972

Construction of the George Parks Highway is about to reach the park entrance, making it possible for people to drive their personal vehicles directly to the park. Anticipating the effects a large number of vehicles will have on the Park Road, National Park Service Director George Hartzog restricts the use of private vehicles beyond the Savage River and institutes the shuttle bus system.

1986

A park management plan institutes a limit on the number of vehicles on the Park Road past Mile 15 in an effort to minimize impacts from an upsurge in traffic and visitation along the Park Road.

2012

A six-year road study concerning the impacts of increasing traffic on park resources and visitor experience contributes to the formation of the Vehicle Management Plan, a guide for park managers to use in decision-making and management of vehicles on the Park Road for the next 15 to 20 years. The plan will factor in visitor perceptions of crowding at wildlife stops and rest stops, interactions between buses and wildlife, and wildlife movements in the Park Road corridor.

Shuttle Destinations and Times

Destination (Mileage/Kilometer)		Savage River (Mile 15/23.7 km)	Toklat River (Mile 53/85.4 km)	Eielson Visitor Center (Mile 66/106.1 km)
What to See	Visitors are encouraged to get on and off the buses to explore the park. Anticipate waits up to one hour to reboard.	Savage River has a small parking area, picnic tables, restrooms, and a loop trail that follows the river. Highlights include summer wildflowers, Dall sheep, moose, caribou, marmot, and ptarmigan.	Toklat River has bathrooms, visitor information desk, bookstore. Highlights include: braided river, view of Divide Mountain, summer wildflowers, Dall sheep, grizzlies, caribou. Shuttle start date: May 20.	Eielson Visitor Center has bathrooms, visitor information, art gallery, picnic tables. Highlights include: Views of Mount McKinley, tundra, short loop trail, alpine ridge trail, golden eagles, grizzlies, wolves, arctic ground squirrels. Shuttle start date: June 1.
Roundtrip Time		2 hours roundtrip	6 1/2 hours roundtrip	8 hours roundtrip
Fares	Adult Single Fare (age 18 and over) Young Adult Single Fare (age 15-17) Youth Single Fare (age 14 and under)	FREE Buses leave from the Wilderness Access Center regularly. Check at visitor centers and bus stops for schedule. No ticket necessary.	Adult Single Fare \$26.75 Young Adult Single Fare \$13.50 Youth Single Fare FREE	Adult Single Fare \$34.00 Young Adult Single Fare \$17.00 Youth Single Fare FREE

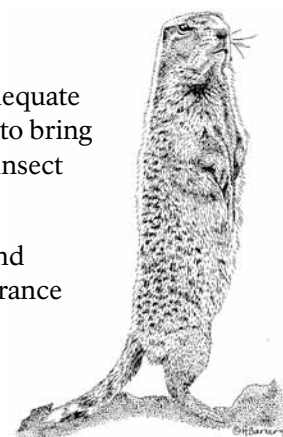
Shuttle Buses

Shuttle Buses are for transportation and wildlife viewing. All shuttle buses depart from the Wilderness Access Center (WAC) only. Passengers may get off along the Park Road and reboard later shuttle buses on a space available basis with a ticket for that day. Waits of up to one hour to reboard a shuttle bus are possible.

Dates of Operation: May 20 - September 13, 2012

Bring plenty of food, water, and adequate warm clothing. You may also want to bring field guides, binoculars, a camera, insect repellent, and head nets.

Fares are dependent on turn-around destination and do not include entrance fees. Youth discounts apply.



Tour Buses

Tundra Wilderness Tour

Wildlife viewing and narrated tour to Toklat River (Mile 53). Tours depart in early morning and afternoon. A box lunch and a hot beverage are provided.

Length of Tour: 7 - 8 hours

Dates of Operation

Regular Season May 20 - September 13, 2012
Shoulder Season May 15-19 and September 14-17, 2012
Dates subject to change.

Natural History Tour

Narrated tour of the park to Primrose Ridge (Mile 17). Morning and afternoon departures available. A snack and beverage are provided.

Length of Tour: 4 1/2 - 5 hours

Kantishna Experience

Narrated tour to historic gold mining area of Kantishna located at the end of the Park Road (Mile 92). Meet a ranger for a short walk and talk. Lunch and beverages included.

Length of Tour: 12 hours

Departure

Tour buses depart from area hotels and the Wilderness Access Center. Please check pickup location prior to the date of departure.

For More Information visit www.nps.gov/dena

For Reservations: See page 8
or visit www.reservedenali.com

Weather: The start and end dates of all bus services are weather-dependent.

Guns: No guns are allowed on Tour Buses. Passengers may carry a gun on Shuttle Buses but it must be unloaded and stored in a locked container.

Wheelchair Accessible Buses are available on all bus systems. Please advise staff of your needs when you make your reservation.

Children under 4 years must be in a carseat to ride on buses. Please make arrangements to bring your own carseat.

ASL interpretation is available with advanced request.

Wonder Lake (Mile 85/135.9 km)	Kantishna (Mile 92/148.4 km)	Camper Bus and Backpackers Only
Wonder Lake has bathrooms and picnic tables. Highlights include views of Mount McKinley, kettle ponds, moose, beaver, waterfowl, and blueberries. Shuttle start date: June 8.	Kantishna is primarily a destination for lodge visitors and backpackers for backcountry access. Please respect the private lands in this area. Shuttle start date: June 8.	Tent campers can access backcountry units or Sanctuary, Teklanika, Igloo, and Wonder Lake campgrounds by camper bus. Reserve a seat when making a camping reservation. Camper bus passes are good on any green bus with space available, for the entire time you are west of Mile 20.
11 hours roundtrip	12 hours roundtrip	Time dependent on destination
Adult Single Fare \$46.00 Young Adult Single Fare \$23.00 Youth Single Fare FREE	Adult Single Fare \$50.00 Young Adult Single Fare \$25.00 Youth Single Fare FREE	Adult Single Fare \$34.00 Young Adult Single Fare \$17.00 Youth Single Fare FREE

Entrance Area Buses

You can ride free shuttles to access amenities in the park entrance area: Denali Visitor Center, Wilderness Access Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Riley Creek Campground, Denali Park Post Office, Riley Creek Mercantile, Railroad Depot, and trailheads including the Mountain Vista Loop and the Savage River Loop trails.

Dates of Operation: May 19 - September 13, 2012, weather permitting.

Wheelchair Accessible buses are available.

Riley Creek Loop Bus	Dog Sled Demo Bus
Loops continuously throughout the day. See schedule at bus stops and visitor centers. Board at Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center, Denali Visitor Center bus stop, Murie Science and Learning Center, Park Headquarters, and Horseshoe Lake Trailhead.	Free, roundtrip transportation for each 10 am, 2 pm and 4 pm dog demo. Board only at the Denali Visitor Center bus stop 40 minutes before demo.
30 minutes roundtrip	1.5 hours roundtrip
FREE	FREE

Park Road Map



Reservations for Buses and Campsites

Advance Reservations for all bus services and campsites for the 2012 season are available through September 13, 2012. Each shuttle reservation may include a maximum of eight seats. Make reservations online or by phone, fax or mail.

Phone Lines are open from 7 am to 5 pm (Alaska Time) daily. Tickets can be purchased by phone up until the day before travel and picked up at the Wilderness Access Center (WAC).

800 622-7275 Nationwide
907 272-7275 International
www.reservedenali.com

Fax 907 264-4684. Requests must be received no less than two days before travel. Download a fax form from www.nps.gov/dena to ensure you include all the necessary information.

Mail your request to:

Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture
2805 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 240
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Requests must be received 30 days before travel date.

When faxing or mailing reservation requests, include the name and age of each passenger, as youth discounts do apply. It is always helpful to include alternate dates of travel.

Entrance Fees: Entrance fees are \$10 per person for adults 16 years and older. Payment is made with your bus reservation or at the Denali Visitor Center. Payment can be made by credit card, cash, check, or money order.

Refund Policy: For each shuttle bus seat and/or campground site there is a \$4 cancellation fee. Shuttle bus cancellations must be made at least 24 hours before departure time. Campground cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival. Tour bus cancellations must be made seven days prior to departure. No refund within seven days. A \$4 change fee is collected for changes made to existing reservations.

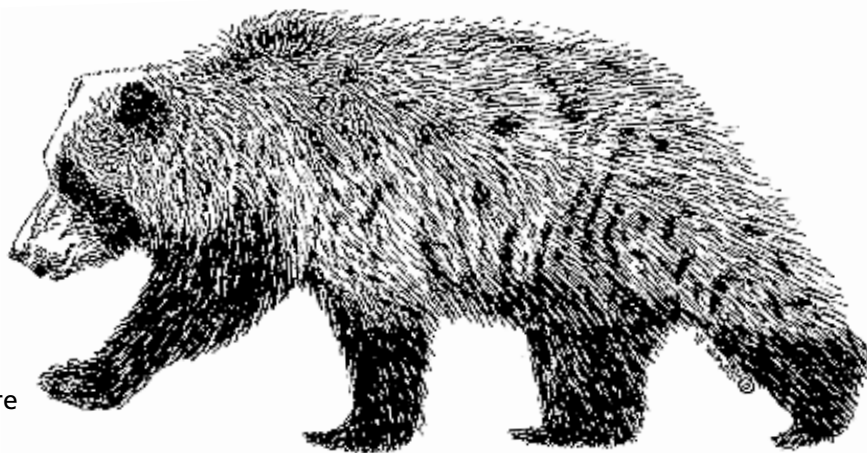
Tickets: Prepaid, reserved tickets can be picked up at the WAC. It is not necessary to check in at the WAC if you already have your shuttle tickets. You need to be at the WAC loading deck 15 minutes before your bus departure. Any unclaimed, prepaid tickets for buses departing before 7 am may be picked up from the expeditors on the bus deck. Bus drivers do not sell tickets. Campground permits and bus tickets may be picked up at the Riley Creek Mercantile or at the WAC.



Camping

Campground Regulations

- Fires are allowed only in established grates at Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika campgrounds. The use of power saws and cutting live vegetation or standing deadwood is prohibited. Campfires must not be left unattended.
- Pets must be leashed at all times. They are not allowed on trails, riverbars, or in the backcountry. Please dispose of feces in garbage cans. Secure pet food inside a vehicle or food locker.
- Quiet hours are between 10 pm and 6 am. At Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika campgrounds, generators may be operated only from 8 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 8 pm. No exceptions.
- Check in after 11 am. Check out by 11 am.



Wildlife and Food Storage

- Keep a clean camp and wash dishes immediately.
- Do not cook directly on fire grates; use and dispose of foil after cooking.
- Store and cook food away from sleeping areas.
- Store all food and ice chests in vehicles or in the food lockers provided.
- Do not feed any animal, including birds.

Campground Descriptions and Fees

Campground Name and Location	Season	Water	Facilities	Cost / Night Summer
Riley Creek west of George Parks Hwy. 146 sites for vehicles and tents	All year; limited facilities from Sept. - May	Yes (no water in winter)	Flush and vault toilets	\$14 walk-in tent, \$22-28 vehicles (up to 30'), \$28 RV (up to 40')
Savage River Mile 13, 33 sites for vehicles and tents	May 19 - Sept. 17 Weather dependent	Yes	Flush and vault toilets	\$22, or \$28 for vehicles pull-through sites
Savage Group Mile 13, 2 sites; tents only	May 20 - Sept. 17 Weather dependent	Yes	Vault toilet	\$40
Sanctuary River Mile 23, 7 sites; tents only; no vehicles	May 20 - Sept. 12 Weather dependent	No	Vault toilet	\$9*
Teklanika River Mile 29, 53 sites for vehicles and tents	May 20 - Sept. 16 Weather dependent	Yes	Chemical toilet	\$16*
Igloo Creek Mile 34, 7 sites; tents only; no vehicles	May 20 - Sept. 12 Weather dependent	No	Vault toilet	\$9*
Wonder Lake Mile 85, 28 sites; tents only; no vehicles	June 6 - Sept. 12 Weather dependent	Yes	Flush toilet	\$16*

Prices are subject to change. 50% discount available with Senior or Access passes only. Cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival in order to receive a refund. Cancellation fee applies.

*Prices do not include a one-time, non-refundable campground reservation fee of \$5.

Information Centers

Backcountry Information Center

Mile 1 Park Road, 907 683-9590
adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center
Open: May 15 to Sept. 18, 9 am to 6 pm daily
Offers: Backcountry information and permits
Bear-resistant food containers
Maps

Denali Visitor Center Campus

Mile 1.5 Park Road
Offers: Alaska Geographic Bookstore
Morino Grill
Bus stop
Baggage check
Lost and found, 907 683-9275

Denali Visitor Center

Mile 1.5 Park Road
Open: May 15 to Sept. 18, 8 am to 6 pm daily
Offers: Bus schedules
General information
Film: *Heartbeats of Denali*, 18 minutes
Ranger-guided walks
Interpretive programs
Exhibits

Wilderness Access Center

Mile 1 Park Road, 907 683-9274
Open: May 15 to Sept. 17, 5 am to 7 pm daily
for restrooms, coffee, bus depot
Reservation desk opens 7 am
Hours may vary during shoulder seasons
Offers: General information from 7 am to 8 pm
All shuttle buses depart from here
Bus tickets and campground information
Film: *Across Time and Tundra*, 17 minutes
Coffee cart
Retail sales

Toklat Rest Stop

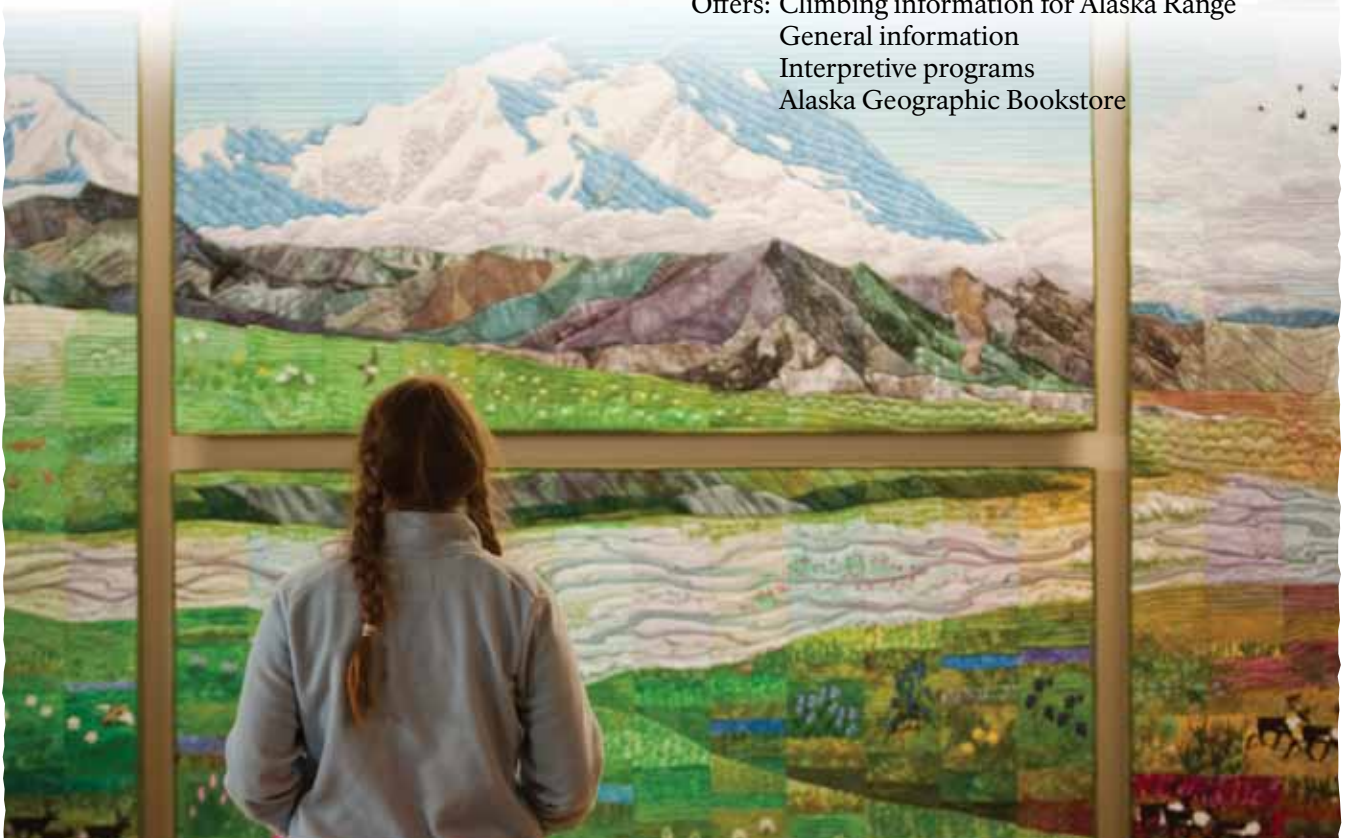
Mile 53 Park Road
Open: May 20 to Sept. 17, 9 am to 7 pm daily
Offers: Alaska Geographic Bookstore
Information

Eielson Visitor Center

Mile 66 Park Road
Open: June 1 to Sept. 17, 9 am to 7 pm daily
Offers: Information
Ranger-guided walks
Exhibits

Talkeetna Ranger Station

B Street in Talkeetna, 907 733-2231
Open: April 16 to Sept. 3, 8 am to 5:30 pm daily
Offers: Climbing information for Alaska Range
General information
Interpretive programs
Alaska Geographic Bookstore



Murie Science and Learning Center



The Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC) is your connection to research and discovery in Alaska's arctic and subarctic parks. The National Park Service partners with Alaska Geographic, The Denali Education Center, and other organizations to offer science exhibits and education programs at the MSLC year-round.

Educational Programs

In the summer, the MSLC offers unique park experiences such as public presentations, half-day classes, multiday seminars, teacher trainings, and youth camps. Visitors can learn about park science in the exhibit area and get current park information at the information desk.

Summer hours: 9:30 am - 5 pm daily, May 15 to September 20.

For the 2012 schedule of seminars and daily programs, visit www.murieslc.org, call 907 683-6432, or inquire at the Denali Visitor Center.

MSLC Research Fellowships support science-based park management

The MSLC enables research in Alaska's eight northern national parks using funds raised by two park partners: Alaska Geographic and the Denali Education Center. Last summer, researcher Ron Karpilo (pictured right) used repeat photographs of glaciers and treelines to document the impacts of climate change on an otherwise largely unaltered landscape.



Polychrome Glaciers
Stephen R. Capps, US Geological Survey, July 18, 1916



Polychrome Glaciers
Ron Karpilo, June 26, 2011

Ranger Programs

Join a park ranger for a guided walk or interpretive talk. You can explore the inner workings of a boreal forest or the microcosmic world of the alpine tundra. There are opportunities to learn about the wolves and bears of Denali or hear about one of our park founders, Charles Sheldon. You can also meet our sled dogs at the Denali Kennels and learn why they play such an important role during the wintertime. Park rangers are here to help you understand, learn about, and protect your national parklands. Join us, today!

Guided Walks

Several guided walks depart daily from the Denali Visitor Center and the Eielson Visitor Center. Hikes range from short, easy loops in the spruce forest to longer more challenging explorations. Check at either facility to learn what is being offered today. Early June to mid-September, 10 am and 1 pm.

Theater Programs

Ever wonder what it's like to climb Denali or what exactly is the moose rut? Join a ranger in the Karstens Theater at the Denali Visitor Center for a variety of topics. Check the information desk for programs and topics being offered today. June 4 to September 17, 10:30 am and 2 pm.

Sled Dog Demonstrations

Sled dogs play an active role in the park. During the winter they work hard patrolling the backcountry and during the summer they relax and spend time with the visitors. Tour

the park kennels and visit with the sled dogs to learn more about these amazing huskies. Programs are offered at 10 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm in peak season. May and September offerings are limited. *Arrive at the Denali Visitor Center bus depot 40 minutes in advance to catch the shuttle and attend this free program.*

Evening Campground Programs

Bring your family and friends and have fun with a ranger for the evening. Programs are 45 minutes long. Check the campground bulletin boards for upcoming topics and schedules. Mid-May to mid-September, 7:30 pm.

Discovery Hikes

Get off the bus and challenge yourself to get up close and personal with the wild. Join a ranger for a different wilderness adventure each day. Participants must be ready for uneven terrain, small stream crossings, dense vegetation, unpredictable weather, and close encounters with wildlife. Hikes take place off-trail and can be difficult. June 8 to mid-September.

All hikers must sign up in advance at the Denali Visitor Center; group size is limited to 11 hikers. Sign-ups are possible no more than two days before the hike date.

All ranger programs are free with the exception of Discovery Hikes which require you to sign up in advance and purchase the appropriate bus ticket.



*...this far into winter, I am more of a dog.
And so I smile to myself, and I smile silently, and
I smile constantly. And in front of me the dogs run
into the sunrise, tongues lolling to one side, eyes
shining, mouths open, their happiness radiating
warmer than the sunlight.*

– Kristin Knight Pace, Kennels Park Ranger,
“A Silent Appreciation,” Kennels Blog,
02/06/11



A Timeless Tradition

Sled dogs have played an essential role in the life and culture of Alaska for thousands of years. In Denali—the only national park in America with a working sled dog kennel—they continue to perform essential wintertime duties.

Denali has nearly two million acres of legally designated Wilderness where no mechanized forms of transport are allowed—no snowmachines, no cars, no airplanes landing, no motors. Our job is to preserve and protect the intrinsic qualities of wilderness that make it increasingly

rare in our modern world. When the park has a choice between flying a load into a remote location or using the dog teams, we'll use the park dogs when feasible.

Come and meet the teams at a summer sled dog demonstration. Board the free shuttle at the Denali Visitor Center Campus 40 minutes before the program. Once at the kennels you'll also have an opportunity to see just how much these dogs love to run as the ranger drives a team around the track!



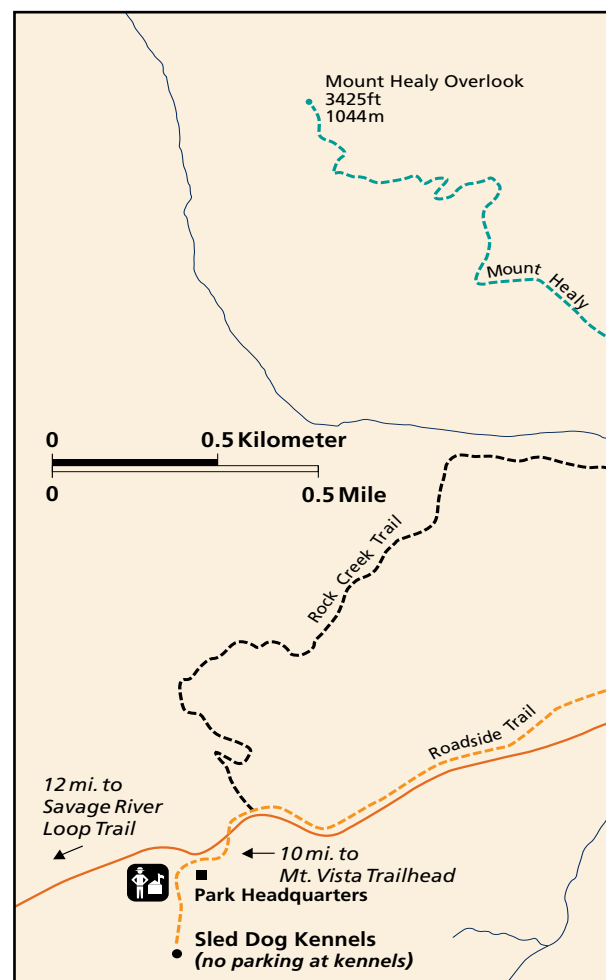
Dog Sled Demos: 10 am, 2 pm, 4 pm during peak season.

Trails

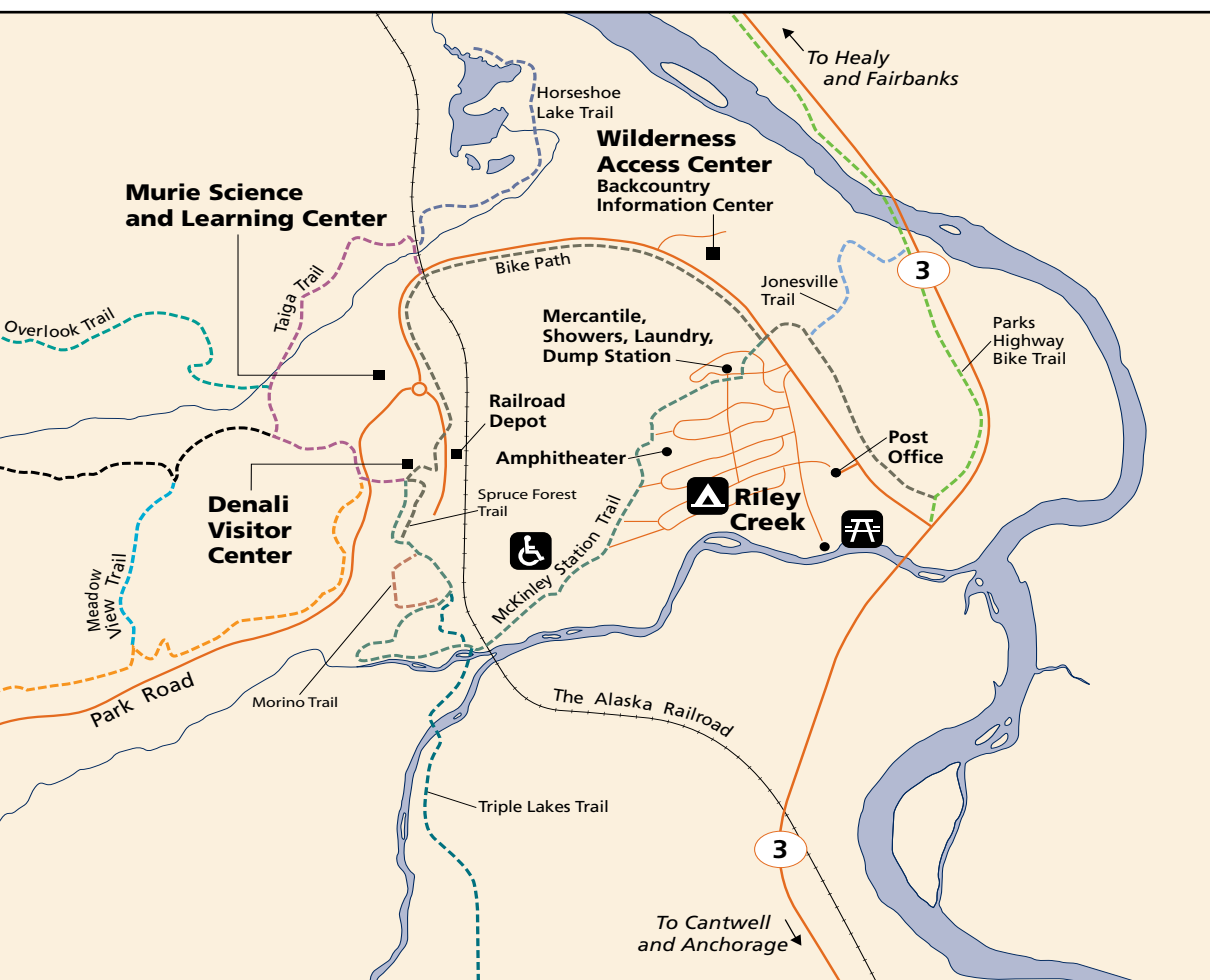
Hiker's Checklist

- **Food:** Do not leave food or scented items unattended at any time. Avoid carrying scented, spiced, or smoked items.
- **Water:** Giardia occurs in the park. Boil all water or use a filter.
- **Footwear:** Wear sturdy, well-fitting hiking boots and take extra socks and gaiters to keep feet dry.
- **Clothing:** Take rain gear, a hat, and gloves. Dress in layers. Wool, fleece, or other non-absorbent synthetic clothing is preferable to cotton.
- **Insect Repellent and Head Net**
- **Toilet Paper:** Pack out all toilet paper, used pads, and tampons. Double wrap in plastic.
- **Essential Gear:** Bring map, compass, waterproof matches or lighter, first aid kit, knife, and a whistle.
- **Emergency:** Always remember to tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.
- **More Information:** Check at the Backcountry Information Center. See pages 20-21 for bear safety information.

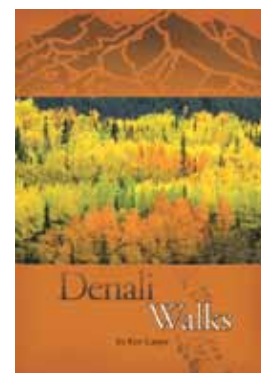
- 1 Difficulty
- 2 Distance
- 3 Time Estimate
- 4 Access
- 5 Highlights
- 6 Elevation Change
- 7 Grade
- 8 Width
- 9 Surface



	Bike Path	Horseshoe Lake Trail	Taiga Trail	Mount Healy Overlook Trail	Roadside Trail	Rock Creek Trail
1	Easy	Moderate	Easy to moderate	Strenuous	Moderate	Moderate
2	1.7 miles/2.7 km	1.5 miles/2.4 km	0.9 miles/1.5 km	4.5 miles/7.3 km roundtrip	1.8 miles/2.9 km	2.4 miles/3.8 km
3	45 minutes one way	45 minutes one way	45-60 minutes one way	2 hours one way	1 hour one way	2 hours one way
4	Connects Visitor Center and the Wilderness Access Center to the Park Entrance and outside business district including Post Office and Riley Creek Campground.	From Taiga Trail or Bike Path join Horseshoe Lake Trail at railroad tracks. (Limited parking available.)	From the Visitor Center or railroad crossing trailhead, provides access to Rock Creek and Mount Healy Overlook trails.	Take Taiga Trail for 0.3 miles, then look for Mount Healy Overlook Trail junction.	From Visitor Center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels.	From Visitor Center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels.
5	Skirts forest edge.	Benches provided lakeside and at top of hill. Views of oxbow lake and the Nenana River.	Spruce and aspen forests, flowers in spring, berries in summer and fall.	Dramatic views. Benches provided after first mile, 500 ft. elev. gain. Switch-backs climb another mile and 1,200 ft. to overlook.	Aspen, birch and spruce forests.	Aspen, birch, and spruce forest. Ridge views.
6	150 feet	250 feet	75 feet	1,700 feet	350 feet	400 feet
7	5% maximum	5% with sections up to 20%	5% with sections up to 15%	Up to 25%	Up to 15%	Up to 15%
8	10 feet	5 feet	2 feet	2 feet	3 feet	2.5 feet
9	Compacted gravel.	Native soils with roots and rocks.	Gravel with open steps across ditches.	Native soils with rocks and roots.	Compacted gravel.	Compacted gravel.



An award-winning guide to all established trails in the park, *Denali Walks* is available at the Alaska Geographic Bookstore. Each entry includes directions, distance, terrain, difficulty, and a detailed section on what to expect along the trail.



Meadow View Trail	Spruce Forest Trail	McKinley Station Trail	Triple Lakes Trail	Mountain Vista Loop	Savage River Loop
Moderate	Easy	Moderate	Strenuous	Easy	Easy to Moderate. 1/2-mile wheelchair acces.
0.3 miles/0.5 km	0.3 miles/0.5 km loop	1.6 miles/2.6 km	9.3 miles/14.9 km	0.6 miles/1 km	2.0 miles/3.2 km
1.5 hour loop	30 minute loop	60 minutes one way	5 hours one way	30 minutes hiking slowly	45 minutes one way
Connects Rock Creek Trail and Roadside Trail to form a 1.6 mile/2.6 km loop back to Visitor Center.	Visitor Center Trailhead. Short accessible loop.	Visitor Center, Riley Creek Campground, Riley Creek Mercantile. Access to the Triple Lakes Trail.	Denali Visitor Center, or the pullout at the north side of the Nenana River Bridge approx. Mile 230.5, George Parks Hwy.	Begins at Mountain Vista Trailhead, Mile 13 of the Denali Park Road. Accessible by the free Savage River shuttle bus and private vehicle, with limited parking available.	Begins at Mile 15 of Park Road. Accessible by free Savage River shuttle bus and private vehicle, with limited parking available.
View of meadows, mountains, and wildflowers.	Spruce forest, wildflowers, and berries in season. Connects to the Morino Trail.	Geologic features, railroad trestle, and Riley Creek. Connects to the Morino Trail.	Three lakes, views of Riley Creek, boreal forest, and Alaska Range.	Historic photos of Savage Camp, views of the tundra, Alaska Range, Mount McKinley.	Wildlife on rocky slopes, tundra views of Alaska Range, geologic formations.
None	None	100 feet	~1,000 feet	50 feet	None
Access trails up to 15%	0%	8.5% maximum	20% maximum	5% maximum	Negligible
2.5 feet	5 feet	5 feet	2 feet	6 feet	2 feet
Compacted gravel.	Compacted gravel.	Compacted gravel.	Compacted gravel, soils, rocks, roots, planks.	Compacted gravel surface. ADA compliant.	Soft

Backcountry Permits

Overnight stays in the backcountry require a free backcountry permit, available at the Backcountry Information Center (BIC) next to the Wilderness Access Center (WAC). Permits are only issued in person, no more than one day in advance. Permits are not required for day hikes, but some areas may be closed to entry. Hikers should stop at the BIC for a map and current information. The BIC is open from 9am to 6pm daily, call 907 683-9590. Arrive no later than 5 pm to obtain a permit.

Denali's vast backcountry is divided into units, each of which has a daily quota for the number of people who may camp there. Because more popular units fill early, be flexible when planning your trip. Most units require

the use of bear-resistant food containers, loaned free of charge with a permit. All food, toiletries, and garbage must be stored in these containers.

Allow no less than an hour at the BIC. Arrive no later than 5 pm. Follow these steps to obtain your permit:

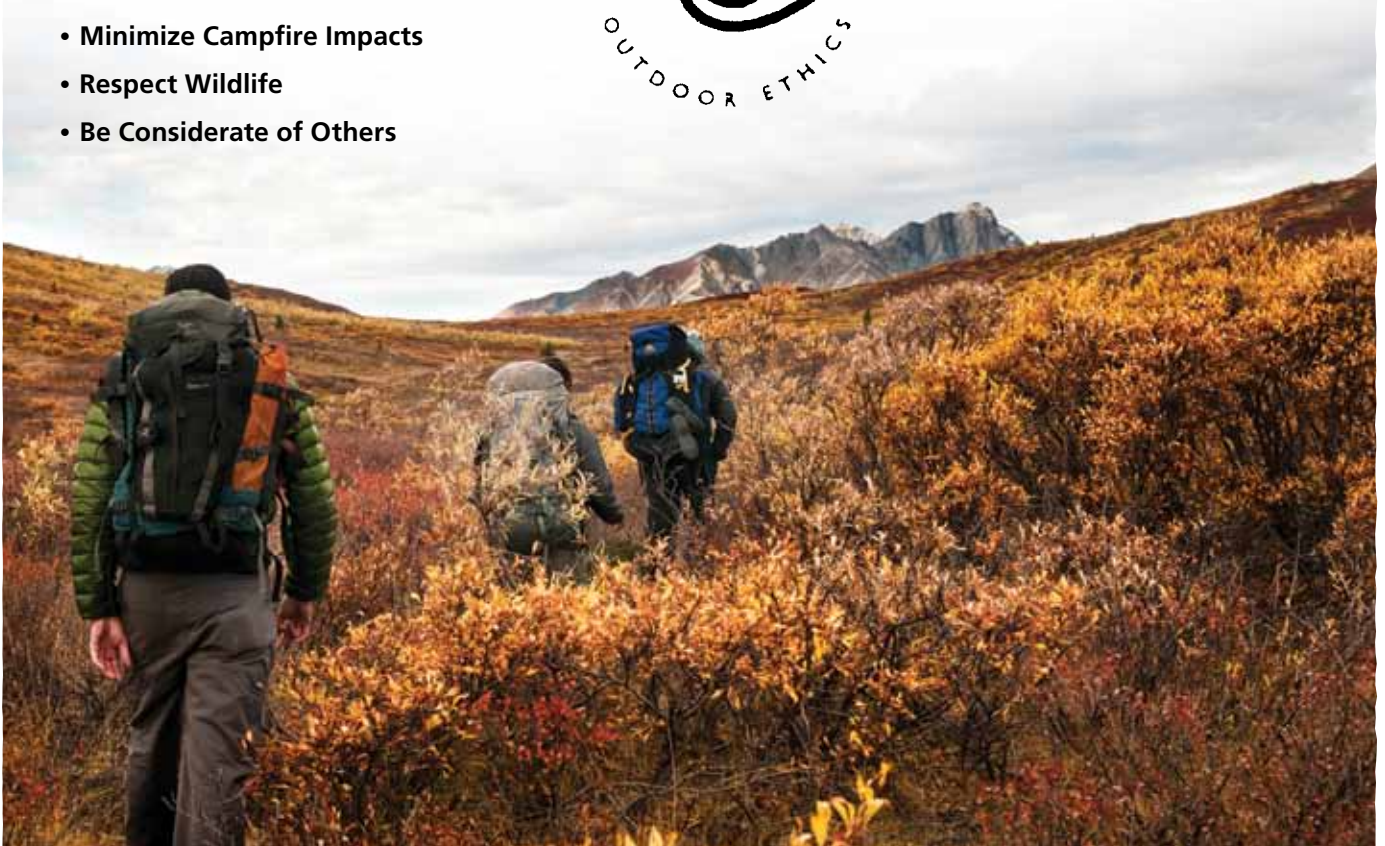
- Plan your itinerary
- Watch backcountry safety video
- Attend the ranger safety talk
- Mark your map
- Obtain a camper bus ticket at the WAC only after completing your backcountry orientation

Leave Denali As You Found It

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others



Please obtain more detailed information at the Backcountry Information Center next to the Wilderness Access Center.



Denali is Home to Wildlife

Please observe these distance rules to ensure their safety and yours. Any distance that alters the behavior of a wild animal is too close.

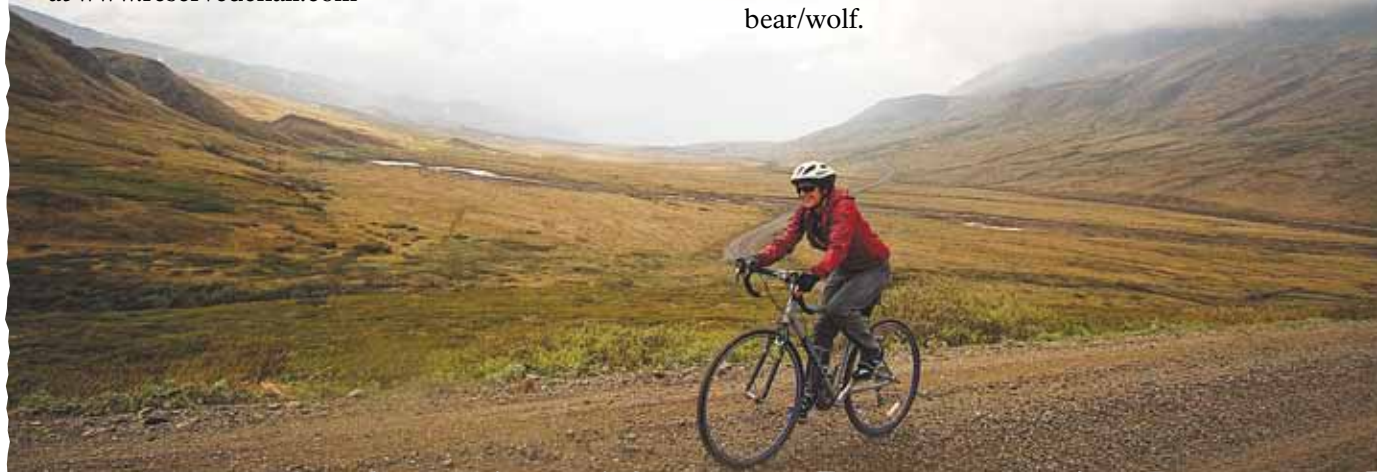
- Maintain minimum distances at all times. Resist the temptation to approach animals. Do not move to intercept an animal's path.
- Responsible visitors use binoculars or a telephoto lens to observe an animal's natural behavior. Do not engage in photography if an animal moves closer than the minimum distance allowed. Remind others of their ethical responsibility when photographing animals.
- Please don't follow an animal at close distance with a vehicle. Motorists must stop and allow an animal to cross the road safely.
- Avoid stressing wildlife. The animals living here are engaged in a daily struggle to find food, shelter, and water necessary for survival. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as when they are nesting, mating, or raising young. Respect the animals and their home. Remember that we are the visitors here.



Biking Denali

Bicycling is a great way to enjoy the Denali Park Road. Help us make it a pleasant and safe experience.

- Cyclists may ride on park roads, parking areas, campground loops and the designated Bike Path.
- Stay attuned to road surface, traffic, and weather conditions as you're riding. Travel single file, keep to the right, and comply with traffic regulations.
- Bicycles can be transported on the free Savage River Shuttle and on designated shuttle buses. Space is limited. Check availability at the Wilderness Access Center or make a reservation at www.reservedenali.com
- Bike racks are provided at campgrounds, rest areas and visitor centers. If you go day hiking along the Park Road, carry your bike 25 yards from the roadway and hide it from view. If you're leaving it overnight, tag it with contact information.
- Wild animals are curious and opportunistic. Do not leave food or scented items on your bicycle unattended. Use a food storage locker provided at campgrounds and other locations, or use a bear-resistant food container provided free with a backcountry camping permit.
- If a bear/wolf appears near you or your planned route, do not try to outride it. Stop and dismount. Keep all your gear with you. Back away slowly. Wait for the animal to move away. If there is a vehicle nearby, use it as a barrier between you and the bear/wolf.



Facilities and Services

- **Accessibility:** Most restrooms are wheelchair accessible. Savage Cabin Trail, the first half-mile of Savage River Trail, and trails around Denali Visitor Center and Riley Creek Mercantile are wheelchair accessible. Some tour and shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible; please advise staff of needs when making a reservation. The Denali Visitor Center and Wilderness Access Center feature films are open-captioned. More information about accessible facilities and features is available at www.nps.gov/dena
- **Alaska Railroad:** You can travel to Denali by rail from Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Talkeetna. Call
907 265-2683 in Anchorage
907 265-2683 outside Anchorage
800 544-0552 outside Alaska
907 683-2233 in Denali
- **Banks:** The closest bank is in Healy. ATM service is provided at Denali Princess, McKinley Chalets, Northern Lights Gift Shop, Lynx Creek Store, and Salmon Bake. All one mile (1.6km) north of the park.
- **Flightseeing:** One of the more dramatic ways to see the park is from the window of a small aircraft. For an enhanced flightseeing experience, visitors can opt to land on one of the park glaciers aboard a ski-equipped airplane with:

Fly Denali, with offices in Talkeetna and Healy, AK
866 733-7768, www.flydenali.net

Sheldon Air Service, Talkeetna, AK
800 478-2321, www.sheldonair.com

K2 Aviation, Talkeetna, AK
800 764-2291, www.flyk2.com

Kantishna AIR Taxi
907-644-8222 , www.katair.com

Talkeetna Air Taxi, Talkeetna, AK
800 533-2219, www.talkeetnaair.com
- **Gas and Propane:** At a gas station on the east side of the George Parks Highway, located one mile north of the park entrance (summer).
- **Grocery, Laundry, and Showers:** At the Riley Creek Mercantile, located near the entrance of the park, adjacent to the Riley Creek Campground.
- **Lost and Found:** If you lose something of value, contact a ranger or call 907 683-9275. To report a lost item or to turn in found items, stop by the baggage check facility located across from the train depot, open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
- **Medical:** The closest physicians and hospitals are in Fairbanks.

Canyon Clinic, urgent care facility, about a mile north of the park entrance at Mile 238.8. Open 9 am to 6 pm daily, and available on call 24 hours – 907 683-4433.

Interior Community Health Center, located in the Tri-Valley Community Center, 13 miles north of the park on Healy Spur Road. A physician's assistant is on call at 907 683-2211.

Talkeetna: Sunshine Community Health Center, Mile 4 of the Talkeetna Spur Road. Open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday, with 24-hour on-call services – 907 733-2273.
- **Post Office:** Located next to Riley Creek Campground.
- **Recycling Areas:** Located at the Riley Creek Mercantile for aluminum, plastic, and batteries. Visitor centers, campgrounds, and rest stops have aluminum can receptacles.
- **Religious Services:** Please check at the Denali Visitor Center for times and locations of religious services in the park and in local communities.
- **Road Lottery:** This year's Road Lottery is September 14-17. For each day of the lottery, 400 names are drawn and those winners may drive the length of the Park Road in their personal vehicles on their assigned day. The names of those selected for permits will be posted on the park website by July 15. For instructions on how to enter, visit www.nps.gov/dena
- **Sewage Dump Station:** Located adjacent to the Riley Creek Mercantile. Free to campers staying in the park; \$5 fee for others. Payable at the Riley Creek Mercantile. Facility may be closed during early or late seasons due to frozen ground or chance of freezing.

Finding the Route

A Prose Poem by Carolyn Kremers

So I climbed, at last, into this broad green saddle above the slippery gray scree and a big, old brown scat pile and new green scat pile, grizzlies for sure. Sturdy stems of dryas—topped simply now with dark blond twirls—made a pointy backdrop for the translucent lemon dots of my winsome favorite: Alaska poppies.

Also called Icelandic, I used to think (but Icelandics are bigger). I gave a shiver for the cold, beloved North and turned around to face the valley and catch the sunny July view, take a break, shake off my daypack. Denali National Park, you're such a story-book place for me.

Time for gorp before the summit, I told myself, and time to drink some water.

The darker clouds were drifting in, but I felt just at home. Then suddenly—some raisins, a cashew, and two colored M&M's poised, delicious, in my mouth—the first crunch down and I no longer stood just shy of emerald Stony Dome's massive top. And you: you hung no longer somewhere in the stars.

You and I were standing in our heavy leather boots, crunching down on what you always brought for us—raisins and fractured chocolate bar: Hershey's or Cadbury—and I was young and innocent, and you were...not old but wise. Daughter, father, we stood in Colorado, high up in some alpine bowl or on a rocky ridge. And all those lemon dots had morphed to blue-white columbine.

Then came tears and great, deep sobs, and the green and gray and blue and white and yellow merged into one vast blur. I sat down on a rock and let the hot tears fall and felt that blur: that I will never ever see you again on this Earth except like this. In memory. Dreams. Old photographs. Words.

And if I lose those shimmers?

It was then I understood, again, the legacy you shared so freely—from when I was just an infant, six months old. A love of the mountains. A need for high places. A confidence and certainty that the route may always be found.





In 2011, Carolyn Kremers, a writer from Fairbanks, Alaska participated in the Denali Artist-in-Residence program. Her books include *Place of the Pretend People: Gifts from a Yup'ik Eskimo Village* and *The Alaska Reader: Voices from the North*. Essays and poems of hers have been broadcast on public radio and have appeared in numerous journals, magazines, and anthologies.


Be Bear Aware


Denali National Park and Preserve is home to both black bears and grizzly bears. Black bears inhabit the forested areas of the park, while grizzly bears mainly live on the open tundra. Almost all bears seen by visitors along the Park Road are grizzlies. The bears of Denali are wild creatures, behaving naturally. If annoyed, these solitary animals can be very dangerous to intruders. For your own protection, and to keep Denali bears healthy and wild, please carefully read and abide by these rules.

As a visitor, each of us has an obligation to respect bears and their habitat. These rules are strictly enforced in Denali. Failure to observe them may result in citations and fines.

 **Be alert:** Bears are active both day and night and can be anywhere. Watch for tracks and scat.

 **Don't surprise:** Bears may perceive you as a threat if you startle them. Never get between a sow and her cub. Bears are protective of their cubs.

 **Make noise:** Warn bears of your presence by making noise—sing, shout, talk. Be especially careful in dense brush where visibility is low, when walking into the wind, and along rivers where bears cannot hear you over the noise of the water.

 **Never approach:** Bears should live as free from human interference as possible. Give them space.

Maintain a minimum distance of 300 yards (275 meters). Standing your ground to allow a bear to approach for photographs is prohibited. If a bear changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

For more information on human-bear encounters, read *Backcountry Bear Basics* by Dave Smith. Allowing a bear to obtain human food or garbage, even once, may cause it to seek out more human food. Eventually, if the bear becomes a threat to human safety, it may be killed. For this reason, it is against the law to feed wildlife in Denali or elsewhere in Alaska, either purposely or by carelessly leaving food or garbage where wildlife can get it.

Grizzly bear

Please report all bear incidents and encounters to a ranger. Park rangers and biologists need this information to document bear behavior for research and management purposes.

🐾 **Do not run:** Running may elicit a chase response. Bears can run faster than 30 mph (50 km/hr). You cannot outrun them. If the bear is unaware of you, detour quickly and quietly away. Give the bear plenty of room, allowing it to continue its activities undisturbed.

🐾 **Back away slowly if the bear is aware of you:** Speak in a low, calm voice while waving your arms slowly above your head. Bears that stand up on their hind legs are not threatening you, but merely trying to identify you.

🐾 **Should a bear approach or charge you—do not run, do not drop your pack:** Bears sometimes charge to within

a few feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may pique a bear's curiosity, causing it to investigate. **Stand still** until the bear moves away, then slowly back off.

🐾 **If a grizzly makes contact with you, play dead:** Curl up into a ball with your knees tucked into your stomach and your hands laced around the back of your neck. Leave your pack on to protect your back. If the attack is prolonged, fight back vigorously.

🐾 **If a black bear makes contact with you, fight back immediately.**



Photo © Kennan Ward

Campgrounds

- 🐾 All food, food containers, coolers, and dirty cooking utensils must be stored in a closed, hard-sided vehicle or in a campground food-storage locker whenever they are not in use. This includes freeze-dried and canned food, as well as beverages and scented items, such as soap, toothpaste, and sunscreen.
- 🐾 Keep a clean camp. Dispose of trash in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster, available at campgrounds. Scrape unwanted food from pots and plates and place in trash container. Be sure dumpster lids are closed and latched. Do not leave items lying around your campsite.
- 🐾 Never leave food, containers, or garbage unattended even for just a few minutes.

Backcountry

The Backcountry Information Center issues bear-resistant food containers with your backcountry permit. These containers are lightweight, cylindrical canisters designed to keep bears from obtaining human food and trash. Since the introduction of bear-resistant food containers in 1984, there has been a 95 percent reduction in bears obtaining backpackers' food and an 88 percent decrease in property damage.

- 🐾 All food, including freeze-dried and canned foods, beverages, and scented items, such as soap and sunscreen, must be kept in the bear-resistant food containers when not in use.
- 🐾 Cook and store food at least 100 yards/meters downwind from your tent in an area with good visibility in all directions. Keep an eye out for approaching bears. Be prepared to put food away in a hurry.
- 🐾 Avoid cooking greasy or odorous foods. Do not sleep in the same clothes you wore while cooking.
- 🐾 Keep a clean and tidy camp. Pack out all trash.

Pepper Spray

The use of pepper spray as a bear deterrent can be very effective when used properly. If you decide to carry it, be aware that wind, spray distance, rain, and product shelf life all influence its effectiveness so learn how to use it. When traveling on buses, tell the driver you have pepper spray so it can be secured appropriately.



Black bear

Become a Junior Ranger

We need you to help preserve and protect this special place. Learn about the plants, animals, people, and landscape of Denali. Explore the land around you. Protect the park through your words and your actions.

Junior Ranger Activity Guide

Free guides available from bus drivers and at seven locations in the park—Denali Visitor Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Savage Check Station, Wilderness Access Station, Toklat River Contact Station, Eielson Visitor Center, and the Talkeetna Ranger Station.



- **Keep Wildlife Wild:**
Make sure all trash goes into a trash can, not on the ground. Do not feed wildlife!
- **Complete a Junior Ranger Activity Guide.**
- **Find a ranger to conduct your Swearing-in Ceremony and receive the Junior Ranger Badge you earned.**
- **Take your badge, Activity Guide, and certificate pledge home with you.**



Denali's Natural World

During your visit to Denali, see if you can find natural things in the park that fit this scavenger hunt. Please leave everything in place so that others may discover them, too! Be a park scientist and make a list of your observations.



Find something that is

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older than you | <input type="checkbox"/> Chewed by an animal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Younger than you | <input type="checkbox"/> A good smell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A bright color | <input type="checkbox"/> A not-so-good smell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hard | <input type="checkbox"/> Bigger than you |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soft | <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller than you |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smooth | <input type="checkbox"/> Beautiful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prickly | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A natural sound | |

Other stuff I've seen

Park Partners



As the primary nonprofit education partner of Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska Geographic connects people to Alaska's magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state's parks, forests, and refuges. Over the past 50 years, Alaska Geographic has donated more than \$20 million to help fund educational and interpretive programs throughout Alaska's public lands.

Alaska Geographic operates four bookstores at Denali, including locations at the park entrance, the Toklat Rest Area, the Talkeetna Ranger Station, and the Murie Science and Learning Center. Your purchases at these locations directly support Denali National Park and Preserve—a portion of every sale helps fund the park's educational and interpretive programs.

To find out more, become a member, or browse our selection of Alaska books, maps, and films, stop by any Alaska Geographic bookstore or visit our website at www.alaskageographic.org

Alaska Geographic also supports education and research programs of the Murie Science and Learning Center. Located at the park entrance, the MSLC offers hands-on learning opportunities and works with the park and other partners to enhance science-based education, scientific research, and science-informed management decisions. Learn more at www.murieslc.org



The Denali Education Center partners with the National Park Service through the Murie Science and Learning Center on educational programs for adults and children. Visit www.denali.org

Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture is Denali's concessioner and provides its support to many park programs and events.



DOYON, LIMITED
ARAMARK

Denali National Park Concession Joint Venture



Denali Borough School District

The Denali Borough School District provides technical support and equipment to Denali and is a frequent partner in grant writing opportunities that make many park programs possible. Visit <http://denali.ak.schoolwebpages.com>

The University of Alaska partners with Denali in research and educational activities. For information visit www.uaf.edu



The National Park Foundation provides support to parks throughout the United States, including Alaska. For more information visit www.nationalparks.org

Planning Your Trip

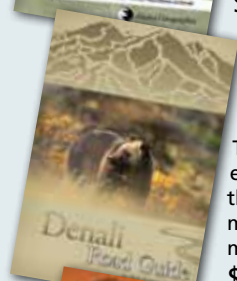
Visit Alaska Geographic bookstores at the park entrance, the Toklat Rest Area, or the Talkeetna Ranger Station to find books, maps, films, and gifts related to the natural and cultural history of Denali National Park and Preserve.



Heartbeats of Denali

Narrated by Terry Tempest Williams
Experience one of America's wildest landscapes in this captivating journey through the seasons of Denali. Featured at the park visitor center.

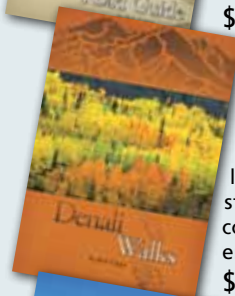
\$9.95 DVD



Denali Road Guide

By Kris Capps
The ideal companion for your excursion into the park. Learn about the wildlife, habitats, geology, and human history of Denali in this mile-by-mile guide to the Park Road.

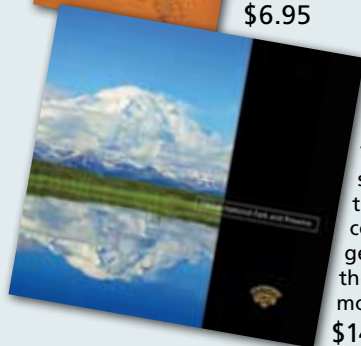
\$6.95



Denali Walks

By Kris Capps
A comprehensive guide to the established trails in the park, from short strolls to adventurous day hikes. Full-color maps, photos, and illustrations enhance each trail description.

\$6.95



Denali National Park and Preserve

By Andromeda Romano-Lax
The lyrical writing and stunning photographs in this book reveal the timeless connections between the geological movements and the daily and seasonal movements of wildlife.

\$14.95



Also available online at www.alaskageographic.org

Contact Information

Phone

Alaska Division of Tourism.....	907 465-2012
Alaska Geographic Park Bookstore.....	907 683-1272
Alaska Railroad.....	800 544-0552
Denali Park Headquarters.....	907 683-2294
Denali Chamber of Commerce.....	907 683-4636
Lost and Found (within park).....	907 683-9275
Bus & Campground Reservations.....	800 622-7275
Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce.....	907 733-2330
Talkeetna Ranger Station.....	907 733-2231
Murie Science and Learning Center	907 683-6432

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

Anchorage.....	907 644-3661
Fairbanks.....	907 459-3730
Ketchikan.....	907 228-6220
Tok.....	907 883-5667

For Topographical Maps and Other Publications

Alaska Geographic Association
P.O. Box 230, Denali Park, AK 99755
phone: 907 683-1272 or www.alaskageographic.org

Please Contact Us

Denali National Park and Preserve
P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755
phone: 907 683-2294
e-mail: DENA_Info@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/dena

twitter

iTunes

You Tube

facebook

flickr™

Emergencies Dial 911

Cell phones work in the park entrance area. Be prepared to give your location as Denali National Park. Call to report accidents, fires, or life-threatening emergencies. Since there are no public phones west of Park Headquarters, emergencies should be reported to rangers on patrol, campground hosts, bus drivers, or to staff at Eielson Visitor Center or Toklat Rest Stop.

What's Burning?

The smoke that you may see or smell originates from fires burning in the boreal forest of the park. Lightning ignites a highly flammable black spruce and fire quickly consumes the tree. The intense heat opens serotinous cones and disperses new seeds onto the forest floor, thus continuing the cycle that has gone on for time immemorial. Fire is a constant force of regeneration. When you experience smoke, stop and think about the value of fires to the boreal forest of Denali National Park and Preserve.

Firearms

It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable firearms laws before entering the park. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the park. Those places are marked with signs at all public entrances. Discharging weapons is strictly prohibited in many areas.

Entrance Fees

7 Day Pass — Individual.....	\$10
Denali National Park & Preserve Annual Pass.....	\$40

America the Beautiful Interagency Passes

Annual.....	\$80
Senior.....	\$10
Access.....	Free

